

Micnaux's plant from Quebec, which is *E. canadensis*; the Canby material from Quebec was presumably also *E. canadensis*, the common plant in the neighborhood of Quebec; but the St. John specimen, the first mentioned, therefore the type, and also the plant illustrated by Wettstein, is characteristic of the species here taken up as *E. americana*.

E. americana, like *E. canadensis* and *E. stricta*, has the appearance of an introduced plant, being extremely weed-like and inhabiting fields, pastures, roadsides and other artificial habitats in the neighborhood of civilization. The earliest collection seen by us was made by William Boott at St. John, New Brunswick, in 1873. Since then the species has been found in seemingly increasing abundance throughout the coastal districts of the Maritime Provinces, Newfoundland and Maine, closely following the progress of civilization into the interior of Newfoundland. In 1885, in making what seems to be the first clear record of the plant in Maine (though *E. stricta* may have been included), Redfield listed it among "recent introductions" (Bull. Torr. Bot. Cl. xii. 103) and in 1886 again wrote of it as "an introduced plant" (*ibid.* xiii. 232). But in 1887, Lawson, noting the wide distribution in Nova Scotia of the plant, said: "I know of no reason for regarding our common Canadian form otherwise than as indigenous" (Bull. Torr. Bot. Cl. xiv. 10) and at the same time (p. 12) Vroom, noting the plant about the ports of New Brunswick, said: "Though regarded here as a native, its being most frequent near the older settlements would seem to favor the opinion that it has been introduced." In publishing the species, Wettstein suggested the possibility of its being a modern derivative from the European *E. nemorosa*; but *E. americana* is at once distinguished by its larger flowers. Its affinity, it seems to us, is more with *E. stricta*, but ordinarily *E. americana* is readily separated from that species by the shorter spikes and more spreading bracts. From *E. canadensis* it is distinguished by its larger corollas with usually darker lines and its proportionally shorter spikes.

A NEW FORM OF POLYGALA POLYGAMA.—POLYGALA POLYGAMA
Walt. forma **obovata**, n. forma. Folia caulina cuneate obovata
supra medium latissima apice obtusa vel rotundata interdum cuspidu-
lata basi cuneate angustata sessilia glaberrima margine vix revoluta

9–19 mm. longa 3–8 mm. lata; ea stolonum similia majora 1.5–2.3 cm. longa 6–9.5 mm. lata. Stem leaves wedge-obovate, broadest above the middle, obtuse or rounded at apex, sometimes cuspidulate, cuneately narrowed to the sessile base, glabrous, barely revolute on margin, 9–19 mm. long, 3–8 mm. broad; those of the stolons similar but larger, 1.5–2.3 cm. long, 6–9.5 mm. broad.

FLORIDA: swampy places between Tallahassee and St. Marks, April–May, 1843, *Rugel* 106 (Brit. Mus.); LOUISIANA: New Orleans, 1832, *Drummond* 38 (TYPE COLL.: Brit. Mus.).

Rather strikingly different from the type in leaf-form, but in flower-characters identical, and scarcely worthy of more than formal rank. *Rugel's* number 106 represents in part a state of this forma answering to *Chodat's* var. *abortiva* of the typical form, which has been shown by Dr. Robinson (see RHODORA ii. 242 (1900)) to be merely an ordinary autumnal phase like that found in the genus *Viola*.—S. F. BLAKE, London, England.

REPORTS ON THE FLORA OF THE BOSTON DISTRICT,— XXI.

NYCTAGINACEAE.

OXYBAPHUS.

O. FLORIBUNDUS Chois. Ayer (*G. M. Allen*, Sept. 20, 1912; specimen in herb. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.). Fugitive from the west.

O. NYCTAGINEUS (Michx.) Sweet. Roadsides and fields; Woburn, Cambridge, Dedham, Brockton, Duxbury. Very abundant and conspicuous at Duxbury. See RHODORA xiv. 20, 90, 1912. Introduced from the west.

ILLECEBRACEAE.

ANYCHIA.

A. canadensis (L.) BSP. Dry woods, frequent. Not reported from southeastern towns.

A. polygonoides Raf. Dry open places; Burlington, Danvers, W. Boston (dump, 1882), Hyde Park, W. Quincy (Blue Hills near Dome).